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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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February Employment Up By 5,500 from Year Ago

February employment in Montana's non-farm industries totalled 152,300 wage earners, a normal seasonal deficit of 2,400 from the January figure of 154,700, but 5,500 more than were employed in the same fields in February, 1955, when the level stood at 146,800.

Seasonal Decline from January

All major industries except finance and insurance show less employment in February than in January, the principal decline occurring in food processing, contract construction, and trade channels. Ranking next in amount of employment loss for the month were logging and lumbering, service industries, government and transportation. Virtually no change occurred in the mining level, or in finance and insurance.

Annual Gains Well Distributed

Comparison with a year ago shows February with a hearty gain of 5,500 from the same month in 1955. This is in face of weather severity which is credited with heavier than normal inroads into seasonal employment channels. The principal employment gains over February of 1955 were in processing of primary metals, metal mining, utilities, wholesale and retail trade, bus and airlines, the finance group, governmental divisions, and in service industries.

Dip of 19,100 from August

Full extent of seasonal fluctuation in employment is best afforded by comparison of February figures with the peak employment month of the year, last August. There were 171,400 wage earners in August, 152,300 in February, a gap of 19,100. In previous years the corresponding dip has ranged from 14,000 to 18,600.

Construction Declines Heavily

Contract construction is curtailed most drastically, falling from 13,800 in August to 7,600 in February, a decline of 6,200, nearly one-third of the entire seasonal deficit in all industry. Lumber and logging dropped from an employment level of 8,300 in August to 5,900 in February, a net loss of 2,400. Food processing fell 500 from August, but 1,700 from October, when its seasonal peak was registered.

Transportation Uses Fewer Men

Transportation and utilities employment was 22,900 in August, 20,900 in February, for a 2,000 decline. Much of this loss was directly seasonal in nature. Interstate railroads account for 1,600 of the shrinkage, other transportation agencies 200, and utilities also 200.

Secondary Effect on Trade

Secondary seasonal effects are felt by retail trade employers, whose payroll numbers decreased 3,300 August to February. Wholesale trade was less marked, but had a 300 decline. Service industries dwindled from 21,700 on payroll to 19,100, much of this decline being also a normal seasonal swing.

STATE'S SURPLUS MANPOWER OVER 13,000 AT PEAK OF MIDWINTER SEASONAL LAYOFFS

Supply of manpower in Montana labor markets rose to 13,061 work-applicants at employment service stations in February, 400 above the January supply and 700 more than were seeking work in February of 1955. Not since 1950 had the 13,000 level of job applicants been surpassed. In February of that year 18,556 were recorded, and in March the files still had 16,085 jobseekers.

Outdoor Occupations Most Affected

Midwinter layoffs and reductions of force affect primarily the outdoor occupations and seasonal industries. The effects communicate in secondary fashion to trade, transportation, and service industries. Construction is most vulnerable to these seasonal work interruptions, and sizable reductions also occur in food processing, lumber and logging, railroad maintenance and repair, and in general farming employment.

Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
January	12,676	12,887	12,270	10,616	10,370	11,685
February	13,061	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336
March	11,700*	11,979	11,075	9,323	9,392	10,844
May		5,565	6,191	4,324	3,276	4,312
July		4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260
September		2,781	3,782	2,288	1,388	2,304
November		6,968	5,617	5,048	4,135	4,341

* Estimated.

Reflects Growing Labor Force

Volume of unemployment in February reflects a steady growth of the working force in Montana, since employment at the same time continues at a higher level than in preceding midwinter periods. In view of this growth Montana industry appears to be facing into a possible surplus of workers for its expanding requirements as seasonal operations resume. This continues a trend manifest in both 1955 and 1954, when the summer residue of work applicants exceeded the similar figures for the three preceding summers.

New Projects Will Aid

Larger projects which will be in employment status this summer include airbase construction and expansion at Glasgow and Great Falls, a new dam on the Clark Fork river at Noxon, and extensive building programs at most of the larger cities in the state. Normal demand is expected to develop from resumption of logging, food processing, railroad work, and agriculture. These and countless other employing units in Montana will determine the extent to which the current manpower surplus is utilized.

Tiber Dam Completed

Tiber dam is completed, as is the aluminum plant in the Flathead, removing these sources of considerable employment in recent seasons from the 1956 scene. At the same time economic effects of such enterprises produce new employment and create new jobs, already evidenced in the 550 payroll at the aluminum plant.

Road Program at Low Ebb

Extent of outdoor work curtailment in February is reflected in employment figures

on state highway stretches. Only 150 workers in February were on payroll of contractors on 40 miles of highway construction and \$1,500,000 of bridge contracts. A year ago there were 190 on such payrolls, two years ago 365. Maintenance crews numbered 700, a fairly standard level through the years.

Heavy Backlog for Spring

Awaiting moderate weather are road contracts covering 330 miles of highway improvement and bridge contracts for nearly \$800,000. This backlog compares with 200 miles of highway and \$1,000,000 of bridges at the same time last year. Seasonal operations by most contractors will begin in late March, weather permitting.

All-Year Jobs Significant

While attention focuses upon the seasonal jobs, significance of steady all-year employment to the state's labor situation should not be overlooked. Mining and processing of ores, production and refining of oil, to some extent lumber production, and the steady backlog of commerce and trade employment, furnish steady payrolls feeding into the economic life of the state on an every month basis.

Miner Shortage Persists

Demand continues in the metal mines for experienced and physically qualified underground men. Recruitment is continuing in distant labor markets, the local supply being insufficient. Despite these efforts the total of mining employment has not risen to any perceptible extent. Seasonal migration from underground to outdoor employment will further complicate the expansion program, a movement which annually takes place in the spring months.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary March 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(171 jobseekers; 113 men, 58 women; 50 men and 23 women over 45) Labor demand still at low ebb, in keeping with winter inactivity. All construction is idle except the few jobs where inside work can be continued. Turnover at the smelters is below normal, due to surplus remaining from shift to six day week. Some pickup in retail trade employment expected about April 1. Inquiries for farm help beginning to be felt, some hiring of potato sorters will occur in early March.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,783 jobseekers; 1,480 men, 293 women; 491 men and 70 women over 45) Industrial demand is at seasonal low but is slightly better than at the same time in 1955. Construction contractors awaiting more moderate weather before re-calling their crews; some minor layoffs occurred in February. Two large shopping centers to be started in spring, one of them estimated at \$11,000,000 cost. Home building will be about up to 1955 level. A new courthouse project has been shelved for the present. Farm labor demand is just beginning to stir from winter lethargy, mostly for care of livestock.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(364 jobseekers; 268 men, 96 women; 138 men and 19 women over 45) Some call-backs of construction crews in February but new projects await spring before starting. Two concrete bridge jobs will use 30 men as soon as weather moderates, and a new high school building should start in April. Skeleton crews engaged on college buildings during winter. Hiring for trade outlets quiet through February, normal pattern. Increased demand expected late in March.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(735 jobseekers; 507 men, 208 women; 226 men and 82 women over 45) Hiring of miners followed a slower pace through January, lack of qualified applicants. Settlement of the Idaho wage dispute was followed by departure of miners who had gone into the Butte mines from there. Unskilled labor is abundant. Construction program is down for the winter, on roads, railroads, and buildings. The winter trade reduction of force appears to have ended and some hires are expected in late March.

CUT BANK—(362 jobseekers; 316 men, 46 women; 76 men and 7 women over 45) Cold weather through February stood in the way of any construction activities. About the only labor demand was for truckers, retail help, and household workers. Market expected to pick up in March. Oil production and drilling looks forward to a busy season. Two school buildings and a number of residences are to be built. Farm demand is limited to stock feeding and care.

DILLON—(140 jobseekers; 74 men, 66 women; 45 men and 26 women over 45) Contractors for a new building at the college will start in April, and several residence jobs about the same time. New mill for tale processing will employ 12 to 15 men, product has been shipped 400 miles in past for the process. Operations expected on newly located phosphate deposits in spring; 25 mile railroad spur to be constructed. Expansion of local motels planned for spring. Farm demand is for livestock care and feed men; no shortages.

LABOR MARKET REFLECTORS

Employment—	1956 Feb.	1956 Jan.	1955 Feb.	Feb. Avg. 1951-1955
Industrial Employment	152,300	154,700	146,800	143,400
New Job Applicants	3,617	4,549	3,638	3,245
Job Applicants, end of month....	13,061	12,676	12,304	11,645
Insured Unemployment—	Mar. 2 1956	Feb. 3 1956	Mar. 4 1955	Avg. 1st Mar. Wk. 1951-1955
New and Renewal Claims	858	1,332	923	667
Unemployed Weeks Filed	9,778	9,248	9,553	7,565
Total Unemployment Claims	10,636	10,580	10,476	8,232

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(474 jobseekers; 373 men, 101 women; 98 men and 22 women over 45) Cold weather in February deferred hiring on outdoor projects, though small crews were kept on inside construction and remodeling. Prospect for opening of construction activity at the airbase project awaits more settled weather. Substantial supply of work-applicants at hand waiting for the call. Contractors loath to announce starting date, generally expected to be April 1 to 15.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(203 jobseekers; 144 men, 59 women; 26 men and 21 women over 45) All construction work remains at standstill, though some contractors expect to resume in early March. Oil service contractors are already active and hiring has begun. Labor supply probably adequate for March and April demands. Farm employers beginning to seek help for their spring and summer requirements, wage scales appear low at present.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,299 jobseekers; 993 men, 306 women; 335 men and 74 women over 45) Labor supply has declined from month ago, though the seasonal upsurge in hiring has not begun, but is still substantially above available workers a year ago. Hiring for resumption of unfinished projects and for new work expected to gain momentum in late March. New lettings on the air base facility expansion program will be up in April, with work to begin shortly afterward. Some calls from farm areas for farm couples and experienced hands, mostly for care and feeding of livestock. Railroad employment is about the seasonal minimum, with considerable expansion expected as the spring season develops. Smelter hiring is slight, for turnover only.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(422 jobseekers; 364 men, 58 women; 148 men and 26 women over 45) Part of the local labor supply is expecting to get employment this spring on the Noxon project, in Sanders county. Local building program fluctuates with the weather, with crews kept to low numbers. Retail trade hiring has begun after winter lull. Some demand appearing in lumber and government circles. A new motel to be built, road work to resume, and the Darby mine will re-open in March.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(500 jobseekers; 407 men, 93 women; 113 men and 24 women over 45) Employment outlook improving with approach of spring. Construction, railroad, and farm hiring expected to begin in March, with all phases active by April. Present supply adequate until mid-spring.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(650 jobseekers; 531 men, 119 women; 215 men and 49

women over 45) Labor market remains dormant, as in January. Beginning of seasonal layoffs in November, a month or more ahead of normal experience, is reacting adversely upon retail trade employment. Construction program, which includes new college buildings, a reserve training center, shopping center, and street improvements, is held back by unfavorable weather. An office building is nearing completion, having reached the enclosure stage early enough to permit finishing work to go forward. Surplus of most occupational skills, except professional, stenographic, and nurse classifications.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,846 jobseekers; 1,671 men, 175 women; 641 men and 95 women over 45) More than half of the major logging and lumber operators in area, 29 out of 50, are shut down for the winter, some of them halting in February. Others are using reduced crews. Employment in trade and service establishments is curtailed as result of the general decline in activity. Aluminum plant operations continue unabated.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(321 jobseekers; 250 men, 71 women; 64 men and 22 women over 45) Hiring picked up in the last half of February from its consistently low level of the three preceding months. Supply is adequate until spring operations are all under way. Flour mill at Harlowton closed for indefinite period, throwing 30 men out of employment. Construction of several new homes, two store buildings, addition to telephone building, and highway and bridge contracts, is expected to be under way by late March.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(530 jobseekers; 376 men, 154 women; 188 men and 55 women over 45) Construction employment is at low ebb, with all outdoor work halted or curtailed. Railroad has announced conversion of shop facilities to Diesel maintenance and repair to start in June. Will use about 200 men and restore part of the payroll lost when the steam locomotive facilities were inactivated. Construction program using 100 men in Yellowstone Park is to start as soon as weather permits. Logging activities halted by accumulation of snow and ice, sawmills still operating on reserve log supply. Upward hiring trend expected to be felt in March.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth—(368 jobseekers; 317 men, 51 women; 97 men and 27 women over 45) Employment situation improved slightly in February, with more moderate weather. Hiring seems to be earlier than normal, both for industry and for agriculture. Supply is adequate until mid-season, though the farm demand seems to be heavier than usual.

AVANA INDUSTRIES (1)

	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	\$82.95	\$86.57	\$86.62	\$90.35	\$88.86	\$85.51	\$89.50	\$85.66
Durable Goods	84.33	86.65	88.89	95.03	91.50	85.94	90.67	86.74
Primary Metals	77.53	73.42	80.36	98.50	98.08	98.49	99.08	84.95
Nondurable Goods	80.46	86.40	82.03	82.48	85.03	84.87	87.68	83.08
Food and Kindred Products	70.77	77.86	72.13	69.93	75.20	79.10	78.46	73.15
All Mining	94.21	92.27	96.23	100.85	100.25	100.21	103.23	91.63
Metal Mining	97.09	91.47	98.52	104.09	99.69	101.91	105.01	90.77
Transportation and Utilities (except railroads)	77.88	81.20	82.35	82.17	80.20	80.61	80.63	79.61
Transportation	87.00	98.50	102.66	95.02	96.10	94.87	94.96	94.37
Utilities and Communications	73.61	72.92	72.81	75.83	72.50	73.69	73.77	72.62

	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	\$2.07	\$2.09	\$2.11	\$2.13	\$2.08	\$2.10	\$2.14	\$2.08
Durable Goods	2.07	2.10	2.12	2.17	2.15	2.13	2.15	2.09
Primary Metals	1.95	1.95	2.06	2.22	2.16	2.18	2.18	2.05
Nondurable Goods	2.05	2.07	2.06	2.07	1.98	2.05	2.12	2.06
Food and Kindred Products	1.73	1.76	1.74	1.70	1.68	1.79	1.78	1.72
All Mining	2.28	2.29	2.37	2.39	2.37	2.37	2.40	2.28
Metal Mining	2.27	2.26	2.39	2.39	2.35	2.36	2.40	2.25
Utilities	1.79	1.83	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.86	1.85	1.83

	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	40.2	41.5	41.1	42.3	42.7	40.7	41.9	41.3
Durable Goods	40.7	41.3	42.0	43.7	42.6	40.3	42.2	41.6
Primary Metals	39.7	37.7	39.1	44.4	45.4	45.2	45.5	41.5
Nondurable Goods	39.2	41.7	39.8	39.9	42.9	41.4	41.3	40.4
Food and Kindred Products	40.9	44.3	41.7	41.1	44.8	44.2	44.1	42.5
All Mining	41.3	40.4	40.6	42.2	42.2	42.3	43.0	40.3
Metal Mining	42.8	40.5	41.2	43.5	42.4	43.2	43.7	40.3
Utilities	41.0	39.9	39.4	41.0	39.4	39.6	39.8	39.6

(1) Revision of monthly estimates on basis of personnel. Average weekly and hourly earnings.

Explanatory: Upward trend in average hourly earnings in part results from continuing increase in wages in manufacturing industries, notably in processing of primary metals. In recent months work stoppage, reducing the average earnings in manufacturing industries cut back from a six day to a five day week, corresponding, but not so great, increase in average hourly earnings.

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE SERIES

Estimates in this series are published monthly in the "Montana Labor Market" and are revised annually on the basis of more complete data. The monthly releases provide a current picture of employment conditions for the interim between annual revisions. Copies of the annual summaries for the years 1947 through 1953 may be had upon request.

EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA ⁽¹⁾

BY MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND MONTHS (Revision of 1954 Estimates; Adjusted Estimates for 1955)

(In Thousands)

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	1954 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954 Aver.	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	169.1	171.4	170.0	167.3	161.7	159.6	160.1
Manufacturing	17.0	16.5	16.8	17.2	18.0	19.3	19.7	20.4	17.3	17.8	20.3	19.7	18.3	19.1	18.6	18.4	18.4	19.3	21.0	21.6	22.1	22.0	22.5	21.4	20.4	20.4
Durable goods	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.8	10.6	11.5	11.7	12.3	9.8	9.5	12.0	11.8	10.6	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.2	12.0	13.3	13.8	14.1	13.9	13.3	12.9	12.3	12.6
Lumber and timber products	4.9	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.8	6.6	6.4	7.1	7.3	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.1	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.7	7.7	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.7	7.3	6.8	7.2
Primary metals	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.9	1.3*	1.0*	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
Other (2)	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Non durable goods	7.3	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.8	8.0	8.1	7.5	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.1	9.2	8.5	8.1	7.8
Food and kindred products	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.1	5.0	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.9
Printing and publishing	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6
Petroleum refining	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other (3)	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	.6	.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Mining	12.0	11.9	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.0	6.2	7.5	11.2	11.3	10.7	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.8	12.2	12.0	12.3	11.9
Metal mining	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.0	7.7	2.7*	4.0*	7.7	7.8	7.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.9	8.4
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	.9	.9	.8	.8	.8	.8	.9	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	.9	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9
Petroleum-natural gas production	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6
Contract construction	6.8	6.8	7.4	8.3	10.1	11.6	13.2	14.1	13.6	13.1	12.2	10.1	10.6	7.7	7.5	7.4	9.4	11.3	12.6	13.8	14.8	14.8	13.4	10.6	9.0	11.0
Contractors, building construction	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.6	4.3	5.2	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.4	4.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.3	5.8	4.8	4.0	4.6
Contractors, other than building	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.6	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.0	3.5	3.2	2.2	3.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.6	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.6	2.2	1.6	2.8
Contractors, special trade	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.6
Transportation and utilities	21.8	21.5	21.3	21.6	22.4	22.8	22.5	22.4	22.3	21.7	21.4	20.9	21.9	20.4	20.3	20.4	21.0	21.9	22.6	22.9	22.9	22.7	22.2	21.8	21.4	21.7
Interstate railroads	13.0	12.8	12.6	12.7	13.4	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.3	12.9	12.4	12.0	13.0	11.8	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.3	12.9	12.4	12.1	12.6
Transportation except railroads	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
Utilities including communication	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4
Trade	36.9	36.6	37.1	38.4	39.0	40.1	40.8	41.2	40.2	39.6	40.0	40.7	39.2	37.3	36.8	37.1	38.8	39.5	40.9	41.6	42.3	41.5	40.7	40.6	41.4	39.9
Wholesale trade	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.7	9.0	9.2	8.9	9.2	9.4	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.8
Retail trade	28.5	28.3	28.8	29.9	30.5	31.4	31.8	32.0	31.3	30.4	30.6	31.7	30.4	28.8	28.4	28.7	30.2	30.9	32.2	32.7	33.3	32.5	31.7	31.8	32.5	31.1
General merchandise and apparel	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.5	7.7	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	7.1	6.2
Food stores	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
Eating and drinking establishments	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.5	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.2	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.6	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.5
Automotive and filling stations	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1
Trade not elsewhere classified	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.5	6.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2
Services and miscellaneous	13.5	18.5	18.8	19.4	19.8	20.8	21.2	21.2	20.6	19.9	19.5	19.2	19.8	18.8	18.7	18.9	19.8	20.2	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.3	20.5	20.2	19.7	20.3
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.1
Personal services	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Other (4)	14.0	14.0	14.2	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.8	14.9	14.8	14.6	14.5	14.3	14.5	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.3	15.5	15.5	15.3	14.9	15.0	15.0
Government	28.9	28.9	29.3	29.7	30.0	30.6	30.3	30.0	29.6	29.4	28.7	28.8	29.5	28.3	28.1	28.4	29.1	29.4	31.1	30.4	30.6	30.6	30.5	29.8	30.0	29.7
Federal	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.1	9.0	9.0	8.7	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.9	8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.9	7.8
State and local	21.3	21.3	21.6	21.8	21.9	21.6	21.3	21.3	21.6	21.6	21.1	20.9	21.4	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.6	21.7	22.3	21.6	21.9	22.7	22.9	22.4	22.1	21.9
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	17.2	17.1	17.2	17.6	18.0	18.3	18.8	18.8	17.3	16.7	17.6	17.8	17.7	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.9	18.2	18.9	19.1	19.4	19.0	18.6	18.0	18.0	18.2
Manufacturing	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.9	1.8	1.6	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9
Contract construction	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.5
Transportation, utilities and communication	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
Trade, wholesale and retail	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.7
Services and miscellaneous (5)	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Government	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3

MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Supplement

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES, HOURS AND EARNINGS, SERIES 1954, 1955

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, Division of UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION

In Cooperation With

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS of the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- (1) Includes all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, armed forces personnel, domestic help, and self-employed.
- (2) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (3) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing of non-durable products.

- (4) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations, and business not otherwise classified.
- (5) Same as (4) above, also includes mining, finance, insurance, and real estate.
- (*) Work stoppage August 24 to October 15, 1954.

SEVEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (In Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	110.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	156.6	154.2	154.2
1954	146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	154.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0
1955	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	169.1	171.4	170.0	167.3	161.7	159.6	160.1

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, WEEKLY HOURS, HOURLY EARNINGS, IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES (1)

BY MONTHS (Final Estimates Through December 31, 1955)

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

	1954 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954 Aver.	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	\$80.42	\$77.50	\$76.77	\$77.54	\$78.25	\$78.09	\$77.57	\$81.52	\$80.73	\$82.25	\$80.20	\$79.82	\$79.20	\$83.05	\$82.96	\$82.50	\$80.78	\$82.23	\$82.95	\$86.57	\$86.62	\$90.35	\$88.86	\$85.51	\$89.50	\$85.66
Durable Goods	81.73	77.89	76.71	76.20	78.90	79.51	76.75	82.02	84.06	83.74	78.17	78.05	79.40	83.60	85.26	83.85	80.60	81.67	84.33	86.65	88.89	95.03	91.50	85.94	90.67	86.74
Primary Metals	89.97	75.86	73.96	73.75	73.56	72.75	72.35	74.95	69.15	69.25	75.00	77.52	75.69	77.97	78.33	78.77	76.79	78.10	77.53	73.42	80.36	98.50	98.08	98.49	99.08	84.95
Nondurable Goods	78.46	76.90	76.86	79.64	77.17	75.66	78.88	80.64	76.18	80.66	83.12	82.55	78.98	82.68	79.26	80.43	81.04	83.13	80.46	86.40	82.03	82.48	85.03	84.87	87.68	83.08
Food and Kindred Products	66.98	65.51	65.48	63.85	66.02	64.23	68.80	73.01	65.16	72.97	74.78	76.64	69.11	73.49	65.53	68.21	70.04	71.95	70.77	77.86	72.13	69.93	75.20	79.10	78.46	73.15
All Mining	94.12	80.06	77.55	80.81	81.13	80.71	81.68	82.83	84.02	66.59	84.51	83.82	81.93	83.64	80.71	81.71	82.56	84.08	94.21	92.27	96.23	100.85	100.25	100.21	103.23	91.63
Metal Mining	94.57	75.74	73.56	77.34	76.05	77.93	78.14	78.31	67.51	38.77	79.58	80.29	77.43	79.01	77.27	77.67	79.43	79.56	97.09	91.47	98.52	104.09	99.69	101.91	105.01	90.77
Transportation and Utilities (except railroads)	75.08	74.46	76.47	74.50	74.70	78.61	78.01	78.51	80.27	77.75	78.53	78.80	77.14	75.70	78.15	78.66	78.87	78.52	77.88	81.20	82.35	82.17	80.20	80.61	80.63	79.61
Transportation	89.79	88.26	90.28	87.67	87.38	90.78	95.18	98.79	97.52	92.93	93.04	91.25	91.89	88.11	89.43	92.82	96.05	93.34	87.00	98.50	102.66	95.02	96.10	94.87	94.96	94.37
Utilities and Communications	68.09	67.86	69.96	68.15	68.71	72.80	70.01	68.94	72.22	70.54	71.79	73.07	70.24	69.61	72.70	71.78	70.47	71.20	73.61	72.92	72.81	75.83	72.50	73.69	73.77	72.62

AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

	1954 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954 Aver.	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	40.4	39.3	39.0	39.3	40.2	39.7	38.7	40.7	39.8	41.3	40.0	39.9	39.9	\$2.03	\$2.05	\$2.03	\$2.02	\$2.05	\$2.07	\$2.09	\$2.11	\$2.13	\$2.08	\$2.10	\$2.14	\$2.08
Durable Goods	40.7	39.7	39.4	39.4	41.1	40.6	38.5	40.9	40.7	40.7	39.0	39.2	40.0	2.03	2.04	2.01	1.99	2.02	2.07	2.10	2.12	2.17	2.15	2.13	2.15	2.09
Primary Metals	44.8	39.8	39.1	38.9	38.8	38.4	38.0	39.2	35.4	36.5	38.8	40.0	39.4	1.96	1.95	1.96	1.95	1.96	1.95	1.95	2.06	2.22	2.16	2.18	2.18	2.05
Nondurable Goods	40.0	38.8	38.5	39.3	38.8	38.2	39.0	40.4	38.6	41.9	41.5	41.1	39.7	2.03	2.06	2.06	2.07	2.09	2.05	2.07	2.06	2.07	1.98	2.05	2.12	2.06
Food and Kindred Products	41.9	40.5	39.8	39.5	40.5	39.4	40.5	43.2	39.8	44.5	43.7	44.5	41.7	1.69	1.67	1.68	1.70	1.73	1.73	1.76	1.74	1.70	1.68	1.79	1.78	1.72
All Mining	42.8	38.3	37.2	37.6	38.0	37.6	37.6	38.0	38.3	30.3	39.1	38.9	38.1	2.16	2.14	2.15	2.17	2.18	2.28	2.29	2.37	2.39	2.37	2.37	2.40	2.28
Metal Mining	43.7	37.4	36.5	36.9	36.5	37.2	37.0	37.1	33.5	19.1	37.9	38.1	37.1	2.11	2.08	2.09	2.10	2.11	2.27	2.26	2.39	2.39	2.35	2.36	2.40	2.25
Utilities	39.1	39.2	40.2	39.6	39.2	41.6	40.6	39.3	41.1	39.8	39.4	40.6	40.0	1.81	1.80	1.83	1.83	1.84	1.79	1.83	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.86	1.85	1.83

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

	1954 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954 Aver.	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
All Manufacturing	\$1.99	\$1.97	\$1.97	\$1.97	\$1.95	\$1.97	\$2.01	\$2.00	\$2.03	\$1.99	\$2.01	\$2.00	\$1.99	40.9	40.5	40.7	39.9	40.2	40.2	41.5	41.1	42.3	42.7	40.7	41.9	41.3
Durable Goods	2.01	1.96	1.95	1.93	1.92	1.96	1.99	2.01	2.07	2.06	2.01	1.99	1.99	41.2	41.7	41.8	40.4	40.4	40.7	41.3	42.0	43.7	42.6	40.3	42.2	41.6
Primary Metals	2.01	1.91	1.89	1.89	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.91	1.96	1.90	1.94	1.94	1.92	39.9	40.1	40.3	39.5	39.9	39.7	37.7	39.1	44.4	45.4	45.2	45.5	41.5
Nondurable Goods	1.60	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.63	1.63	2.02	1.99	1.97	1.93	2.00	2.01	1.99	40.7	38.5	39.1	39.1	39.9	39.2	41.7	39.8	39.9	42.9	41.4	41.3	40.4
Food and Kindred Products	1.96	1.98	2.00	2.03	1.99	1.98	1.70	1.69	1.64	1.64	1.71	1.72	1.66	43.5	39.2	40.6	41.3	41.5	40.9	44.3	41.7	41.1	44.8	44.2	44.1	42.5
All Mining	2.20	2.09	2.09	2.15	2.14	2.15	2.17	2.18	2.20	2.20	2.16	2.16	2.15	38.7	37.8	38.0	38.1	38.6	41.3	40.4	40.6	42.2	42.2	42.3	43.0	40.3
Metal Mining	2.16	2.03	2.02	2.10	2.08	2.10	2.11	2.11	2.02	2.03	2.10	2.11	2.09	37.5	37.1	37.1	37.9	37.7	42.8	40.5	41.2	43.5	42.4	43.2	43.7	40.3
Utilities	1.74	1.73	1.74	1.72	1.75	1.75	1.73	1.76	1.76	1.77	1.82	1.80	1.76	38.5	40.3	39.2	38.6	38.6	41.0	39.9	39.4	41.0	39.4	39.6	39.8	39.6

(1) Revision of monthly estimates on basis of more complete reports. Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel. Average weekly and hourly earnings include overtime and other premium pay, not to be confused with rate of pay.

Explanatory: Upward trend in average hourly earnings during 1955 is reflected for all industries in which the figures apply. In part this results from continuing increase in wage schedules, and in part from the utilization of more hours of working times in specific industries, notably in processing of primary metals and in metal mining. These two industries in 1954 reflected the result of a two-months work stoppage, reducing the average earnings recorded, and accentuating the contrast with 1955 levels. In 1954 the metals industries cut back from a six day to a five day week, in 1955 the shift was back to the six day week. Nearly all other industries show a corresponding, but not so great, increase in average of hours worked per week.

THE MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE SERIES

This supplement presents the annual summary of revised figures on non-farm employment by Montana industries and commerce during the years 1954 and 1955, by months. The series was begun in 1947 as to number of employees in non-farm industries and in 1950 as to average weekly earnings, weekly hours, and hourly earnings in selected industries.

Estimates in this series are published monthly in the "Montana Labor Market" and are revised annually on the basis of more complete data. The monthly releases provide a current picture of employment conditions for the interim between annual revisions. Copies of the annual summaries for the years 1947 through 1953 may be had upon request.

INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

Estimates; Adjusted Estimates for 1955)

(In Thousands)

1954 Aver.	1955 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1955 Aver.
155.0	148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	169.1	171.4	170.0	167.3	161.7	159.6	160.1
18.3	19.1	18.6	18.4	18.4	19.3	21.0	21.6	22.1	22.0	22.5	21.4	20.4	20.4
10.6	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.2	12.0	13.3	13.8	14.1	13.9	13.3	12.9	12.3	12.6
6.1	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.7	7.7	8.3	8.3	8.3	7.7	7.3	6.8	7.2
3.3	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
7.7	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.1	9.2	8.5	8.1	7.8
3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.1	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.9
1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6
1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
10.7	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.8	12.2	12.0	12.3	11.9
7.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.9	8.4
.9	.9	.9	.9	.8	.8	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9	.9
2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6
10.6	7.7	7.5	7.4	9.4	11.3	12.6	13.8	14.8	14.8	13.4	10.6	9.0	11.0
4.4	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.3	5.8	4.8	4.0	4.6
3.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.6	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.6	2.2	1.6	2.8
3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.6
21.9	20.4	20.3	20.4	21.0	21.9	22.6	22.9	22.9	22.7	22.2	21.8	21.4	21.7
13.0	11.8	11.8	11.9	12.3	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.3	12.9	12.4	12.1	12.6
3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7
5.4	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4
39.2	37.3	36.8	37.1	38.8	39.5	40.9	41.6	42.3	41.5	40.7	40.6	41.4	39.9
8.8	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.9	8.8
30.4	28.8	28.4	28.7	30.2	30.9	32.2	32.7	33.3	32.5	31.7	31.8	32.5	31.1
6.2	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	7.1	6.2
4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5
7.6	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.3	7.7	8.3	8.5	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.1	7.5
5.8	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1
6.4	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.5	6.8
5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.2
19.8	18.8	18.7	18.9	19.8	20.2	21.4	21.6	21.7	21.3	20.5	20.2	19.7	20.3
3.1	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.1
2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
14.5	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.3	15.5	15.5	15.3	15.3	14.9	15.0
29.5	28.3	28.1	28.4	29.1	29.4	31.1	30.4	30.6	30.6	30.5	29.8	30.0	29.7
8.1	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.8	8.8	8.7	7.9	7.6	7.4	7.9	7.8
21.4	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.6	21.7	22.3	21.6	21.9	22.7	22.9	22.4	22.1	21.9
17.7	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.9	18.2	18.9	19.1	19.4	19.0	18.6	18.0	18.0	18.2
2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.9
1.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.5
2.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4
5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.7
3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3

Includes all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Excludes proprietors, armed forces personnel, domestic help, and self-employed.
Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing of non-durable products.

- (4) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations, and business not otherwise classified.
(5) Same as (4) above, also includes mining, finance, insurance, and real estate.

(*) Work stoppage August 24 to October 15, 1954.

SEVEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (In Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0	
133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0	
111.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0	
110.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2	
145.5	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2	
146.7	145.5	147.2	151.1	155.7	161.6	164.1	165.4	164.8	153.9	158.2	155.7	155.0	
148.4	146.8	147.4	153.4	158.4	166.8	169.1	171.4	170.0	167.3	161.7	159.6	160.1	

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary March 1

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,192 jobseekers; 934 men, 258 women; 285 men and 77 women over 45) Labor demand less than a year ago and supply increased by 100 in February. Abnormal seasonal extremes of snow and cold have delayed the start of construction activities, leaving three-fourths of building craftsmen idle. Three log outfits are temporarily idle. Employment prospects brightened by program of building, which includes addition to principal hotel, new finance and office building, three bridges, and opening of the Noxon dam job which will call some of its help from this area. At Superior the woods work has been halted and one shift taken off the sawmill. Farming demand is mostly for feeding and care of livestock.

POLSON—(454 jobseekers; 390 men, 64 women; 126 men and 13 women over 45) Local sawmill re-opened in February but was closed down again by the weather after three weeks. All outdoor employment is curtailed to bare necessities. Most of the local labor supply will be required when moderate weather finally permits resumption of seasonal work. The Noxon dam project will draw some of its help from this locality.

SHELBY, Chester, Conrad, Tiber Dam—(294 jobseekers; 247 men, 47 women; 98 men and 13 women over 45) Surplus of most types of skills in the local labor market. A minimum of employment exists in all lines except garages, which are full-handed. Oil field work, roads, buildings, street improvement, and farm work will offer job opportunities in late March or early April to about all applicants available here. The Tiber dam is virtually completed, about 40 laid off with the finish of riprapping.

SIDNEY—(347 jobseekers; 321 men, 26 women; 82 men and 3 women over 45) Outdoor work is stagnated by the continuing adverse weather. Remodeling of a business building is under way but construction projects generally are awaiting the arrival of spring. Extent of the spring construction program is as yet indefinite. Farm hiring has begun in anticipation of more favorable weather and a normal demand is expected to develop there in April. The sugar refinery closed its fall run the first week of February.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(292 jobseekers; 255 men, 37 women; 56 men and 12 women over 45) The prime contractors on Noxon dam are awaiting spring for commencement of dirt work and excavation, some sub-contractors have part crews at work. Employment on the project will become significant about April 1. Two logging outfits have closed down for the break-up period, most sawmills still operating on reserve log supply. Increased woods employment is looked for in late March and early April, about the same time the construction program will get into action.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scooby—(314 jobseekers; 268 men, 46 women; 51 men and 10 women over 45) Contract for erection of a new church has been let, construction program now awaiting moderate weather includes two schools, two churches, a highway project, and residences. Oil field employment will also expand as spring opens. Local labor is looking to airbase construction at Glasgow and Minot for work opportunity. Four oil drilling rigs are operating now.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1956 (2)	Jan. 1956 (3)	Feb. 1955	Jan. '56 to Feb. '56	Feb. '55 to Feb. '56
NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....	152,300	154,700	146,800	-2,400	5,500
Manufacturing.....	18,700	19,500	18,600	- 800	100
Durable goods.....	11,500	11,700	11,500	- 200	0
Lumber and timber products.....	5,900	6,100	6,300	- 200	- 400
Primary metals.....	4,300	4,300	4,000	0	300
Other (4).....	1,300	1,300	1,200	0	100
Nondurable goods.....	7,200	7,800	7,100	- 600	100
Food and kindred products.....	3,500	4,100	3,300	- 600	200
Printing and publishing.....	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	- 100
Petroleum refining.....	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
Other (5).....	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	- 100
Mining.....	12,200	12,300	11,800	- 100	400
Metal mining.....	9,000	9,000	8,500	0	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	900	1,000	900	- 100	0
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	- 100
Contract Construction.....	7,600	8,200	7,500	- 600	100
Contractors, building construction.....	3,200	3,400	3,100	- 200	100
Contractors, other than building.....	1,200	1,300	1,300	- 100	- 100
Contractors, special trade.....	3,200	3,500	3,100	- 300	100
Transportation and utilities.....	20,900	21,000	20,300	- 100	600
Interstate railroads.....	11,700	11,800	11,800	- 100	- 100
Transportation except railroads.....	3,700	3,800	3,300	- 100	400
Utilities including communication.....	5,500	5,400	5,200	100	300
Trade.....	38,700	39,100	36,800	- 400	1,900
Wholesale trade.....	8,700	8,900	8,400	- 200	300
Retail trade.....	30,000	30,200	28,400	- 200	1,600
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,700	5,900	5,600	- 200	100
Food stores.....	4,500	4,600	4,300	- 100	200
Eating and drinking establishments.....	6,600	6,700	6,700	- 100	- 100
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,000	6,000	5,600	0	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	7,200	7,000	6,200	200	1,000
Finance, insurance and real estate.....	5,500	5,500	5,000	0	500
Services and miscellaneous.....	19,100	19,300	18,700	- 200	400
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Personal services.....	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
Other (6).....	14,600	14,800	14,200	- 200	400
Government.....	29,600	29,800	28,100	- 200	1,500
Federal.....	7,300	7,400	7,300	- 100	0
State and local.....	22,300	22,400	20,800	- 100	1,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....	17,400	17,400	17,100	0	300
Manufacturing.....	2,800	2,800	2,900	0	- 100
Contract construction.....	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Transportation and utilities.....	2,200	2,300	2,300	- 100	- 100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,500	5,500	5,300	0	200
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200
Government.....	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 718 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on returns from 1,056 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN FEBRUARY, 1956, AND FEBRUARY, 1955

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 3-2	
	Feb. 1956		Feb. 1955		Feb. 1956		Feb. 1955		February 1956				February 1955				1956	1955
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	57	23	62	22	171	56	167	36	36	6	42	18	37	6	43	23	126	148
Billings.....	606	222	585	214	1,783	701	1,604	611	267	45	312	185	191	40	231	112	1,398	1,551
Bozeman.....	93	28	160	44	364	155	456	138	111	32	143	51	149	46	195	65	270	343
Butte.....	310	102	396	92	735	204	955	187	302	23	325	118	393	—	393	138	505	673
Cut Bank.....	62	18	78	20	362	142	280	115	12	—	12	9	23	3	26	10	222	220
Dillon.....	53	20	67	32	140	38	124	52	19	37	56	28	28	32	60	28	86	88
Glasgow.....	92	42	99	21	474	186	478	178	80	10	90	52	96	23	119	32	366	322
Glendive.....	131	57	134	50	203	81	251	108	97	28	125	48	93	18	111	40	168	293
Great Falls.....	453	119	570	168	1,299	459	1,234	448	204	101	305	104	207	73	280	104	1,133	997
Hamilton.....	122	51	47	17	422	140	344	114	23	4	27	11	13	4	17	10	283	274
Havre.....	142	32	77	22	500	219	473	204	121	14	135	71	62	4	66	32	390	377
Helena.....	175	60	197	92	650	269	608	256	74	19	93	27	77	25	102	57	481	460
Kalispell.....	249	92	265	86	1,846	539	1,354	497	65	1	66	16	101	1	102	36	1,791	1,398
Lewistown.....	89	38	66	23	321	101	306	94	44	11	55	18	27	18	45	14	218	216
Livingston.....	92	44	129	45	530	160	464	164	15	10	25	5	25	16	41	10	443	428
Miles City.....	108	45	84	28	368	165	439	187	79	26	105	41	75	14	89	30	396	367
Missoula.....	290	124	235	95	1,192	455	1,165	449	89	41	130	67	178	16	194	74	879	913
Polson.....	67	16	77	19	454	158	479	164	21	1	22	9	14	6	20	9	422	497
Shelby.....	111	29	74	17	294	108	405	150	50	7	57	32	37	—	37	12	191	295
Sidney.....	159	49	134	36	347	125	352	115	55	17	72	24	54	15	69	27	277	290
Thomp. Fls.**	64	23	—	—	292	84	—	—	65	—	65	25	—	—	—	—	288	—
Wolf Point.....	92	34	102	43	314	147	366	183	34	5	39	12	22	9	31	9	283	326
TOTALS.....	3,617	1,268	3,638	1,186	13,061	4,692	12,304	4,450	1,863	438	2,301	971	1,902	369	2,271	872	10,636	10,476

* Includes 405 claims of Federal Employees UC program instituted January 1, 1955. **Office re-opened June 1.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. (1) 1956	Jan. (2) 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. (1) 1956	Jan. (2) 1956	Feb. 1955	Feb. (1) 1956	Jan. (2) 1956	Feb. 1955
All Manufacturing.....	\$92.01	\$91.79	\$82.96	41.7	42.0	40.5	\$2.21	\$2.19	\$2.05
Durable goods.....	95.74	95.59	85.26	43.5	43.5	41.7	2.20	2.20	2.04
Primary metals.....	99.05	99.05	78.33	45.3	45.3	40.1	2.19	2.19	1.95
Nondurable goods.....	85.15	85.37	79.26	38.5	39.4	38.5	2.21	2.17	2.06
Food and kindred products.....	67.96	71.18	65.53	37.7	39.1	39.2	1.80	1.82	1.67
All Mining.....	103.77	103.73	80.71	43.2	43.1	37.8	2.40	2.41	2.14
Metal mining.....	105.96	105.96	77.27	44.0	44.0	37.1	2.41	2.41	2.08
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	79.47	79.12	78.15						
Transportation (except railroads).....	91.09	90.34	89.43						
Utilities and communication.....	73.44	73.38	72.70	40.1	39.6	40.3	1.83	1.85	1.80

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

COMMISSION OF MONTANA

MITCHELL BUILDING

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